

# Defense Financial Management Certification Training

by Colonel Maryetta D. Pesola

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In the 1998 Financial Management Mid-Range Plan, we identified core competencies and associated goals. To meet the goal to excel through training, education, and career guidance, we published the SAF/FM Guidelines. The guidelines identified levels of education and mentioned relevant certification. However, as DoD Financial Managers, we did not have a professional certification directly related to our responsibilities. The American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) took up this challenge and in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DoD) financial Services designed a test-based certification program to meet DoD financial management requirements. The following article describes the Defense Financial Management Certification (DFMC) program and also provides information on a new training initiative that will enhance financial management proficiency and also help prepare for the DFMC test.

The DFMC was designed for federal employees working in a DoD financial management environment and offers our professional force an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and capability. The DFMC test will consist of three modules covering the resource management environment, accounting and finance, and budget and cost analysis. All three modules can be tested in one sitting; however, ASMC recommends only taking one module at a time. More detailed module information can be found on the web at [www.asmconline.org/guide/StudyHome.htm](http://www.asmconline.org/guide/StudyHome.htm).

There will be a \$35 processing fee and each module will cost \$95. Although DoD can pay for training that will hopefully make us more proficient in our job, it cannot pay for the test. All testing will be done by Sylvan testing centers starting in the summer time frame.

This test promises to be extremely challenging and for that reason ASMC has worked with USDA in developing training that should help prepare for the test. Because the training program will enhance financial management proficiency and also help prepare for the DFMC test, the USD Comptroller and Service FMs agreed to fund the training. Starting in January 2000, sixty-eight classes will be offered at 32 locations worldwide. Specifically, there will be eight classes in Japan, Korea, Italy, England, two in Germany, and two in Hawaii. All the other classes will be within the

US continent. There will be approximately 30 seats per class divided between all the Services and Defense Agencies. The classes will be one week in duration. Since the base/installation and MAJCOM/FOA/DRU FMs will pay for the TDY cost, we are encouraging people to volunteer for the site closest to them. The MAJCOMs/FOAs/DRUs have been provided a copy of the training sites.

The one-week training class will not guarantee you will pass the DFMC test unless you are very knowledgeable in Federal financial management rules and regulations. Most people will likely have to do additional study on their own. Also, not everyone will be able to attend the training when they want. For those folks who need additional training or want to study on their own, ASMC has not only identified the areas of study but has also identified the sources for study on their web site. Some of the sources can be accessed right from ASMC's home page.

Yes, continuing professional education (CPE) hours will be earned upon completion of the training. However, for the individual not attending the sponsored training but working through a self-study program, CPE hours will be earned at the completion of each testing module. An individual cannot earn hours by attending training and using the web site self-study material (you only receive credit once.) The associated CPE hours will be listed under CPE Courses on the SAF/FM Professional Development web site. In addition to earning CPE hours, our friends at the Air Force Personnel Center are working with the Civilian Personnel Office to get the DFMC recognized for certification credits, similar to other certification programs in the total person score.

I hope everyone will take the training and test over the next few years. Besides the certification, the training will keep us up-to-date in our profession and provide a measure of assurance to Congress and the American public that we know what we are doing. Not only do I hope to see a few of you in the training classroom but that you will join in seeking certification in this new program designed for us.



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## About the Author



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